

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Association's Policy in Traffic Matters

At the Louisville Convention the question of all traffic matters was referred to the executive officers of the Association with power to act.

Under this authority the executive officers have decided that the policy of the Association shall be to intervene or take action upon only such traffic matters as are general in character, that is, matters pertaining to the industry in all sections of the country.

To Study Cause of Springers in Kraut

At the request of canners who have had difficulty with springers in canned kraut, the Research Laboratory has begun a study of the cause of these springers and means of avoiding them. Kraut canners have been asked to assist in the investigation by furnishing information as to the extent to which swells and springers are experienced in their product, and to forward to the Laboratory samples of swells or springers they may have in their possession.

Senate Rejects Gooding Bill

The Gooding long-and-short haul bill, which would so amend the Interstate Commerce Act as to prevent transcontinental railroads from granting a lower rate to Pacific Coast ports than to intermediate points, was rejected Wednesday in the United States Senate by a vote of 46 to 33.

In the final debate on the bill frequent reference was made to the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission reported in last week's Information Letter, which denied transcontinental railroads authority to establish reduced freight rates to Coast points on certain commodities without making corresponding reductions in the rates to intermediate points. This decision was cited by opponents of the Gooding bill as evidence that the amendment proposed by the bill was not necessary.

Would Require Date of Sealing on Canned Foods

In a bill (H. R. 10502) introduced by Representative Hammer of North Carolina, an amendment of Section 8 of the Food and Drug Act is proposed which would require foods in hermetically sealed containers to be plainly and conspicuously marked or to bear a label with the date on which the container was sealed. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Buenos Aires Amends Vegetable Preserves Regulations

The Municipal Council of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has modified an earlier ordinance covering vegetable preserves so that the manufacture, transportation, exposition, and sale of vegetable preserves is prohibited if they have the following characteristics: (a) Prepared with altered, fermented or damaged raw material; (b) obtained by remoistening or recoloring dried vegetables or parts thereof; (c) those to which substances foreign to their normal composition may have been added, viz., artificial essences or extracts, antiseptics, antiferments, and coloring matter in general; (d) those treated with solutions of copper or nickel compounds, and of mineral or organic elements or mixture, for the purpose of simulating superior quality or care in its preparation.

Plan Greater Sweet Potato Acreage

All the important sweet potato states are planning to increase the acreage of sweet potatoes from 10 to 30 per cent, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. For the country as a whole the reports indicate an intended increase of nearly 20 per cent. The acreage that will be actually planted may fall somewhat below this figure if weather conditions at planting time are not favorable. However, if present intentions are carried out and an average yield of 95 bushels is secured, the Department states that production will be increased about 41 per cent over 1925 and 61 per cent over 1924.

U. S. Sardine Pack

The output of American sardines in 1925 exceeded 129,000,000 pounds, which according to a statement of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, is 16,000,000 pounds greater than the 1924 pack, and much above the preceding five-year average of 86,000,000.

Imports of canned sardines for the year amounted to more than 20,000,000 pounds, while the exports aggregated 62,750,000 pounds. Domestic consumption during the past year was 500,000 pounds greater than the average pack for the preceding five years and totaled 86,500,000 pounds.

The sardine canning industry is centered in Maine and California. California is accredited with approximately 64 per cent of last year's pack, or 82,560,000 pounds.

United States Salmon Pack and Exports

The domestic production of canned salmon in 1923 amounted to 288,890,000 pounds (6,018,550 cases) against a pack of 300,171,696 pounds (6,250,000 cases) during 1924, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Last year's pack represented nearly three-fourths of the world production, with Alaskan salmon comprising 74 per cent of the total. Domestic consumption amounted to 235,590,000 pounds and approximated two pounds per capita.

Domestic exports for the year 1925 amounted to slightly more than 53,300,000 pounds, of which 47.7 per cent went to the United Kingdom, 13.9 per cent to the Philippines, 4.7 per cent to Canada, 3.17 per cent to Mexico and 1.8 per cent to Belgium.

Army Medical Officers Visit Laboratory

During the past week army medical officers who are taking the advanced course in preventive medicine at the Army Medical Center, Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, visited the Association's Research Laboratory. For several years past, the Director of the Medical Center has arranged to have the advanced students make such a visit, as it affords an excellent opportunity for them to gain a better knowledge of canned foods and the work that the Association is doing through its Research Laboratory to improve the industry's product.

Survey of Canning Industry in Washington

"Women in the Fruit Growing and Canning Industries in the State of Washington" is the title of a 224-page book just issued as Bulletin No. 47 of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Depart-

ment of Labor. The bulletin presents the results of a survey made in Washington in the summer and fall of 1923, and covers hours, wages and conditions.

The bulletin contains a general discussion of the personal and family history of women workers, migrants, housing, industrial accidents and diseases, labor turnover and occupational histories of the women workers. There are separate chapters giving data on working conditions, hours and wages in berry fields, prune orchards, apple and pear orchards, fruit and vegetable canneries and evaporators, fish canneries, clam canneries, and apple and pear warehouses.

The extent of the survey is indicated by the statement that interviews were held with 958 women working in outdoor industries and with 2,056 women employed in 63 establishments in indoor industries. Data were obtained from 15 fruit and vegetable canneries and evaporators, 11 fish canneries, 19 fruit warehouses and 17 prune dryers.

Copies of the report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, at 40 cents a copy.

Standard Invoice Forms

To date 44 trade organizations and 269 individual firms have formally accepted the standard invoice form developed under Simplified Practice Recommendation No. 37 of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Cuba to Enforce Canned Milk Marking Regulation

According to reports to the U. S. Department of Commerce, the Cuban Bureau of Sanitation is now notifying distributors of canned milk that it will hereafter enforce Decree No. 674 of 1914, which requires that on each case of condensed milk, or any other kind of preserved milk, distributed in Cuba, the date of packing and the maximum time that it can be expected to remain in good condition shall be clearly stated in Spanish.

Proposes Amendment to Plant Quarantine Act

By an amendment to the Plant Quarantine Act of August 20, proposed in a bill (S. J. Res. 78) introduced by Senator Jones of Washington, states would be allowed to quarantine against the shipment therein or through of plants, plant products and other articles found to be diseased or infested when not covered by a quarantine established by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Canned Foods Exports in February

Exports of canned vegetables, fruits, sardines and condensed milk were greater in February this year than in the same month of 1925; on the other hand exports of canned meats, evaporated milk and salmon declined. The February export figures as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

	1925 Pounds	1926 Pounds
Canned meats, total	1,837,907	1,589,928
Beef	172,494	347,767
Sausage	445,812	354,078
Canned vegetables, total	2,678,777	4,289,379
Canned fruits, total	11,033,271	13,880,585
Apricots	2,736,271	1,189,039
Peaches	4,211,935	3,915,811
Pears	1,955,639	4,282,986
Pineapples	1,299,596	1,765,118
Condensed milk	2,960,998	3,776,521
Evaporated milk	6,700,063	4,701,140
Canned salmon	4,754,990	4,021,763
Canned sardines	8,889,009	11,838,830

Northwest Cannery Publish Grading Rules

The Northwest Cannery Association has issued in pamphlet form its Grading Rules for No. 1 Fresh Fruits and Berries for Canning Purposes, which were adopted April 18, 1925.

Seed Corn Test Urged

Tests by the seed laboratory at the State Experiment Station in Geneva, N. Y., show that the stocks of seed corn in that State need careful inspection if corn growers are to escape serious losses from the use of poor seed, according to the State seed analyst. "Corn growers need not become unduly excited," he states, "nor should they pay exorbitant prices for seed corn, but it would be well worth while for them to determine at once the condition of their seed stocks.

Freight Loadings

Revenue freight loadings for the week ended March 13 totaled 967,411 cars, an increase of 41,292 cars compared with the corresponding week last year and 50,649 cars over the corresponding week in 1924. Compared with the preceding week, the total for the week ended March 13 was an increase of 2,730 cars,

increases being reported in the total loading of all commodities except live stock, coke, forest production and miscellaneous freight.

Losses from Plant Diseases

The Bureau of Plant Industry has issued its annual report on crop losses from plant diseases in the United States in 1924, with comparative figures for earlier years. This is the eighth in the series of these reports.

For twelve crops total losses from all causes are given for the years 1919-1924, with detailed figures by causes and by states for 1924. The following table summarizes the 1924 figures on losses in crops of interest to canners:

	<i>Per Cent</i>		<i>Per Cent</i>
Sweet potatoes	17.72	Peaches	9.41
Stem rot	2.78	Leaf curl	1.47
Root rot	0.38	Brown rot	4.19
Black rot	2.75	Yellows and little peaches	0.18
Storage rot	9.25	Scab	1.24
Pox	0.14	Other diseases, etc.	2.33
Other diseases, etc.	2.42	Pears	9.37
Apples	18.68	Fire blight	6.58
Bitter rot	0.49	Scab	0.45
Black rot	1.20	Leaf blight	0.97
Blotch	1.51	Other diseases, etc.	1.37
Cedar rust	1.38	Grapes	0.47
Fire blight	1.61	Black rot	0.21
Scab	8.83	Other diseases, etc.	0.26
Other diseases, etc.	3.66		

For tomatoes, beans, plums and prunes, cherries and raspberries, no percentages for the United States as a whole are given. There is shown the estimated reduction in yield from the various diseases in various states and the total estimated reduction in each state. The figures on tomatoes, for example, show the total reductions due to the various diseases in large tomato-producing states to have ranged from 12 per cent in one state to 51 per cent in another. In beans, the highest loss reported was 20 per cent and it exceeded 10 per cent in but five states.

Federal Reserve Board's Business Summary

Production and trade continued in February at the high level of the preceding month, while the general average of prices declined and was lower in February than at any time since the latter part of 1924.

The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries, which is adjusted for seasonal variations, indicated a continuation of productive activity during February in about the same volume as in the preceding two months. Employment and earnings of factory workers increased, after the seasonal recession of January, and were in February at practically the same levels as during the latter part of 1925. The volume of building contracts awarded declined both in January and in February, but remained larger than in the corresponding months of last year.

Wholesale trade in February was in about the same volume as a year ago. A smaller volume of sales was reported for groceries, dry goods, and hardware, while sales of meats, shoes, and drugs were larger. Inventories of wholesale firms dealing in groceries, dry goods, shoes, and hardware were smaller at the end of February than a year ago. Trade at department stores and at mail-order houses was larger than in February of last year, and department store stocks were about 5 per cent greater than on the corresponding date of 1925.

Freight car loadings continued at about the same daily rate in February as in the preceding two months. Shipments of merchandise in less-than-carload-lots and of miscellaneous commodities were particularly large.

The general level of wholesale prices, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, after remaining unchanged for two months, declined in February to a point slightly below the low figure of 1925, reported for last May. The greater part of the decline since last autumn has been in prices of agricultural commodities. During the first three weeks of March prices of grains, cotton, wool, and silk continued to decline and recessions were also reported in the prices of sugar and hardwood lumber.

At member banks in leading cities demand for loans chiefly for commercial purposes showed an increase, partly seasonal in character, between the middle of February and the middle of March, and on March 17 the total volume of these loans was close to the high point reached last autumn. A further decline of loans on securities, which accompanied the sharp recession in security prices in March, carried the total to a point nearly \$430,000,000 below that reached at the end of the year.

Forgot to Kill the Spider

She came into the grocery—it was in New York—with a cold gleam in her eye, and an opened can of corn in her hand. Setting the can down on the counter she addressed the grocer who

was chatting with a salesman who happened to be present, and announced:

"There is a bug in that can—look at it—and I'm going to get damages from you for selling me that sort of stuff".

The grocer took a look, edged back, and turned to the salesman with what appeared a sigh of relief.

"There", he said to the salesman, "that's some of the corn I bought from you".

It was the salesman's turn to look concerned. He lifted up the can, identified the label, turned it round and round, looked closer, and then with a pencil deftly lifted from the top of the corn a sorry looking spider. Depositing the spider gently on the counter some distance from the can he said to the woman:

"Let's see what else there's in the can".

And he started stirring the corn about, closely watched by both the grocer and his irate customer. Nothing but corn came to the top—good looking corn at that.

"Now", he said, "let's have a look at that bug again", and the trio turned to the spot where it had been laid.

No spider in sight, only a wet trail leading to the edge of the counter. But down on the floor they found it, heading toward a dark corner and making what slow progress it could with remnants of corn clinging to its bedraggled legs.

There is no need to tag a moral to this story, nor to give names and dates, which are a matter of record. The story is simply a recital of actual facts reported to the Association.